

STEVENS CREEK TRAIL PROJECT, YUBA DRIVE TO EL CAMINO REAL

STEVENS CREEK TRAIL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE NO. 7

Updated: October 5, 2007

Stevens Creek Trail Project Background

The Stevens Creek Trail Construction--Yuba Drive to El Camino Real, Project 04-40, involves extending the existing Stevens Creek Trail from Yuba Drive to the south side of El Camino Real by way of a pedestrian/bicycle tunnel that will cross under El Camino Real. The on-ramp to southbound State Route 85 from eastbound El Camino Real is also being rebuilt as part of this project to make the intersection safer for pedestrians.

Construction of the trail continues to make progress and is expected to continue until spring 2008. Lane closures will be necessary along El Camino Real near Highway 85 for approximately nine months to accommodate the open trench construction of the tunnel.

General Project Sequencing

The sequence of work within El Camino Real will be as follows:

- Removing portions of El Camino Real Median– Median removal is necessary to allow the contractor to shift traffic and maintain two lanes of traffic in each direction during tunnel construction. The median will be replaced at the end of the project. COMPLETE.
- Relocating existing underground utilities – All utilities within El Camino Real that conflict with the tunnel must be relocated. Two water lines, a gas line and a fiber optic line will be relocated in the first stage of tunnel construction and an additional fiber optic line will be relocated in the third stage of construction. ALL UTILITY RELOCATION IS COMPLETE EXCEPT FOR A FIBER OPTIC LINE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF EL CAMINO REAL TO BE RELOCATED IN THE THIRD STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION.
- Reducing the number of travel lanes along El Camino Real from three lanes to two lanes in each direction and realigning the lanes to provide a work area for underpass construction on the north side of El Camino Real – This will provide a safe work area for the contractor for the first phase of tunnel construction. COMPLETED
- Reconfiguring the on-ramp to southbound Route 85 – The ramp is being re-aligned to improve pedestrian safety in the area. COMPLETED
- Completing the first segment of tunnel under El Camino Real. COMPLETED.
- Maintaining the lane reduction along El Camino Real and realigning the lanes to provide a work area for underpass construction in the middle of El Camino Real -

This will provide a safe work area for the contractor for the second phase of tunnel construction. COMPLETED

- Completing second segment of tunnel under El Camino Real. COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER
- Maintaining the lane reduction along El Camino Real and realigning the lanes to provide a work area for underpass construction on the south side of El Camino Real - This will provide a safe work area for the contractor for the third phase of tunnel construction. COMPLETED
- Completing the third and final segment of tunnel under El Camino Real. IN EARLY OCTOBER, THE CONTRACTOR WILL SET SHEETPILES AND BEGIN THE EXCAVATION OF THE FINAL SEGMENT OF THE TUNNEL, WHICH WILL LEAD TO THE COMPLETION OF THE TUNNEL OPENING ON THE SOUTH END OF EL CAMINO REAL. THE THIRD CONSTRUCTION SEGMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF NOVEMBER 2007.
- Reconstructing the median and landscaping on El Camino Real to return the median to its former appearance. New retaining walls and other trail improvements will also be constructed while the tunnel work is occurring.
- Completing the asphalt trail between Yuba Drive and the El Camino Real tunnel.
- Completing the exterior face of the tunnel with a natural bluestone veneer and installing interior lighting.
- Installing the trailside landscaping and irrigation system.

Construction Activity over the Next Few Weeks and Impacts to the Public

Traffic lanes have been reconfigured on El Camino Real to create safe work zones while different segments of the tunnel are being constructed. During the nine-month tunnel construction period, El Camino Real will be reduced from three lanes to two lanes of traffic in each direction 24 hours a day. Traffic delays should be expected during peak traffic hours.

Motorists are encouraged to consider taking alternate routes including Evelyn Avenue, Central Expressway, Middlefield Road, and Shoreline Boulevard to avoid traffic delays during construction.

The contractor has completed the second section of the pedestrian tunnel under El Camino Real and has reconfigured the travel lanes on El Camino Real to provide a safe work zone for the final tunnel construction in the south side of El Camino Real. Traffic delays are expected while motorists become familiar with the new lane alignment. This lane alignment will be in place for about two to three months.

Pedestrian access along El Camino Real is open on both sides of El Camino Real, however, there may be times when construction activities may require the temporary closure of a pedestrian route.

Construction vehicles and equipment will enter and exit the work zone while work is in progress and this movement will have some impact on traffic on El Camino Real.

For more information regarding the Stevens Creek Trail extension project, please contact the City's project construction manager.

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